

~~Top Secret~~

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YUGOSLAVIA:

Military Demanding Political Crackdown

The Yugoslav Army—in articles timed to coincide with the annual review of the military budget—has again demanded that the regime take strong measures against regional nationalists and political liberals. [REDACTED]

Two recent articles in the military's leading weekly warned of rising nationalism in the Yugoslav republics and condemned growing popular abuse of the armed forces. One recounted an incident in October in which a gang beat up a small group of naval cadets following a soccer match between Croatia and Serbia. The Army construed this apparently isolated event as a direct attack by Croatian nationalists against the military. [REDACTED]

The Army also criticized Slovenia, where political officials had tried to cut the military budget last year and permitted a peace march in Ljubljana last May. Both articles denounced growing ideological laxity in Serbia, citing as examples a magazine article that criticized Marxism and a book that treated the Communists' wartime domestic rivals mildly. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The rhetoric has been less harsh this fall than it was during the major political debate a year ago, when military officials attacked the collective leadership for economic as well as political mismanagement. The officer corps continues to be disturbed by evidence of political liberalization and bristles at any signs of popular disrespect toward the armed forces. But in recent months, indications that the central party leadership is trying to reassert itself may have been enough to reassure most officers. [REDACTED]

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